

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 47 have been cancelled.

New claims 48 through 53 have been added, including independent claims 48 and 53.

Independent claims 48 and 53 include elements recited in original claims 42 and 46. Specifically, independent claims 48 and 53 recite a functional element having an undercut defining a thread and having features interrupting the thread for providing anti-rotational properties to the functional element. United States Patent No. 5,407,311 to Goss fails to disclose a features interrupting a thread used for providing anti-rotational properties to undercut of a functional element. Further, Goss discloses a fastener 22 that is *ultrasonically welded* to generally parallel spaced apart webs 24. Ultrasonic welding is performed upon polymer materials as disclosed in column 1, lines 55 through 64 of Goss. Goss fails to disclose a functional element that is attachable to a sheet metal element in a liquid and gas tight manner.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. Further and favorable reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested.